

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1        1. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic  
2 cable, comprising:  
3        a first finger that has a distal end;  
4        a second finger that has a distal end;  
5        a pin that is coupled to said distal ends of said first  
6 and second fingers; and,  
7        an actuator coupled to said second finger.

1        2. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said first finger  
2 has a V-shaped groove.

1        3. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said pin is  
2 attached to said first finger and extends through an  
3 aperture in said second finger.

1        4. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator is  
2 coupled to said first finger and moves said first and  
3 second fingers in an inward direction and an outward  
4 direction.

1           5. The gripper of claims 2, wherein said V-shaped  
2 groove is located along said first finger so that a portion  
3 of the fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of  
4 said first finger and said second finger.

1           6. The gripper of claim 1, further comprising a return  
2 spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

1           7. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator  
2 includes a pneumatic cylinder.

1           8. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic  
2 cable, comprising:

3           a first finger that has a groove and a bottom surface,  
4 said groove having a location so that a portion of the  
5 fiber optic cable extends below said bottom surface;

6           a second finger; and,

7           an actuator coupled to said second finger.

1           9. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said groove has a  
2 V-shape.

1        10. The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a pin  
2        that is attached to said first finger and extends through  
3        an aperture in said second finger.

1        11. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator is  
2        coupled to said first finger and moves said first and  
3        second fingers in an inward direction and an outward  
4        direction.

1        12. The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a  
2        return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

1        13. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator  
2        includes a pneumatic cylinder.

1        14. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic  
2        cable, comprising:

3        a first finger that has a bottom surface and means for  
4        extending a portion of the fiber optic cable below said  
5        bottom surface;

6        a second finger; and,

7        an actuator coupled to said second finger.

1        15. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said means  
2 includes a V-shaped groove.

1        16. The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a pin  
2 that is attached to said first finger and extends through  
3 an aperture in said second finger.

1        17. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator is  
2 coupled to said first finger and moves said first and  
3 second finger in an inward direction and an outward  
4 direction.

1        18. The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a  
2 return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

1        19. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator  
2 includes a pneumatic cylinder.

1        20. A method for gripping a fiber optic cable,  
2 comprising:  
3        moving a gripper until a fiber optic cable makes  
4 contact with a pin that extends between a first finger and  
5 a second finger; and,

6 moving the second finger to grasp the fiber optic  
7 cable.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the fiber optic  
2 cable moves into a V-shaped groove of the first finger.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein a portion of the  
2 fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of the  
3 first finger and the second finger.

1 23. A method for gripping a fiber optic cable,  
2 comprising:  
3 actuating a gripper so that a first finger and a second  
4 finger of the gripper grasp the fiber optic cable, the  
5 grasped fiber optic cable having a portion that extends  
6 below a bottom surface of the first finger and the second  
7 finger.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the fiber optic  
2 cable is located within a V-shaped groove of the first  
3 finger.